

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Bulgarian Manpower

1. Every Bulgarian male from the ages of 17 to 65 is liable for military service. Anyone who cannot meet his military service requirements must serve a certain period of time in the military labor units (Trudovaks) or pay a special tax at an amount which has been fixed by law. The armed forces have three categories of manpower from which to call men for service:
 - a. Members of the regular Army;
 - b. Men in the reserves up to the age of 46, and sergeants up to the age of 50; such men receive a Voynishka Knizhka (Reserve Soldier's Booklet) and must report from time to time; and
 - c. The "Voенно Ogranichenie" (Military Reserves), which includes soldiers over the age of 46, sergeants over 50, lieutenants over 55, captains through colonels over 60, generals over 65, and those young men who have been deferred or exempted from training.
2. Each January the "Voенно Byuro", the military agency responsible for mobilization, prepares the lists of the age groups to be mobilized. The annual age group liable for service constitutes an average of one percent of the population; in 1952 it was 1.3 percent, and in 1953, 1.2 percent. Each age group should therefore supply the Army with approximately 75,000 men; however, a certain number of these will be exempted or deferred by the various committees.
3. The period of compulsory military service varies according to the arm or service to which the recruit is assigned. He will serve three and one-half years if assigned to the infantry or artillery; four years if assigned to the Air Force or the Navy; three years if assigned to the Border Guards; and only one year if he is a highly

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trained person such as an engineer or technician. It is expected that a bill will soon be passed which will allow engineers and technicians to receive their military training along with their academic studies. The training would be essentially the same as that which medical students receive: lectures on military subjects during the academic years and active service for two training periods of 60 days each. Upon completion of their studies, the graduates would be commissioned at the lowest officer's rank.

4. The Ministry of Defense, which decides the date for the call-up of an age group, has chosen 1 October for the past few years. Men who are being called up for service are assigned as follows:

- a. Infantry, 55 percent;
- b. Artillery, 20 percent;
- c. Air Force, 4 percent;
- d. Cavalry, 3 percent;
- e. Engineers (including demolition units and workshops), 6 percent;
- f. Motorized units, 8 percent;
- g. Navy and special units, 2 percent; and
- h. Trudovaks, 2 percent.

The above distribution is only approximate, and it does not indicate details of duties. Included in the 55 percent allotted to the infantry would be certain signal troops, medical orderlies, antitank gunners and staff for general services.

5. Noncommissioned officers in the Bulgarian Army are called sergeants; this rank can be obtained in only three ways:

- a. Recruits who are chosen to attend the national sergeants' schools without serving in any Army unit; their schooling lasts from six to seven months;
- b. Soldiers who are deemed to have qualities of leadership are sent to divisional schools as sergeant-candidates, where they remain for 3-4 months; they then return to their units and receive the permanent rank of sergeant following a probationary period as acting-sergeant; and
- c. Soldiers who distinguish themselves in their units, particularly in the "professional branches," are promoted to sergeant in their respective units without being required to attend school; such men must, however, pass an examination, one part of which is on Marxism-Leninism.

6. Only young men who are Communist Party members and whose devotion to the regime is beyond doubt can be commissioned as regular Army officers. Regular Army officers constitute approximately 7-8 percent of the total officer corps. Commissions in the regular Army can be obtained only in the following ways:

- a. By entering an officer training school immediately upon completion of a secondary school;
- b. By being called up in an age group and applying for admission to an officer training school after 6-7 months of service;
- c. By transferring from the Reserve to the regular Army; a reserve officer must ask for transfer to the active service list and must go through a training period of several months, after which he may be made a regular Army officer;
- d. By entering the "Suvorovtsi Military School" at the age of 14, following completion of the seventh grade; this school provides both military training and general secondary training; a graduate completes his military studies at an officer training school; the "Nakhimovtsi School" provides similar training for Naval officers; and
- e. Veteran sergeants, who have distinguished themselves, can be commissioned after passing a short, special officers' course; however, such cases are infrequent.

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7. Graduates of secondary schools receive training as reserve officers at the following officer schools:

- a. Infantry officers schools at Knyazhevo (N 42-40, E 23-15) and at Turnovo;
- b. Artillery officers school at Pleven; and
- c. Air Force officers school at Telish (N 43-20, E 24-16).

Infantry reserve officers who are to receive specialized training in tank tactics and demolition engineering are sent to regular Army schools; no separate schools for such training exists for reserve officers. Upon completion of their training reserve officers serve the remainder of their term in regular Army units and are then released.

8. Officers in the security forces are in either the Border Guards, the Militia, or the security and internal intelligence units. There are no reserve officers in the security units. There is a school for security officers at Simeonovo (N 42-37, E 23-20).

Mobilization Procedure in Peacetime

9. A "Voenno Byuro" is attached and subordinate to every municipality council (Raysvet-Rayonen Svet) and to every village council (Selsvet; Selski Svet). These "Voenno Byuro" are also part of the military area command (Voenna Okruzhiye), which is an organization of the Ministry of Defense. Every civil administrative district has a military area office; Sofia alone has three such offices.
10. The "Voenno Byuro" maintain a card index of all draft candidates, the the "Voenno Okruzhiye" keeps a corresponding file. Any data on a person which the "Voenno Byuro" receives must be transmitted within three days to the "Voenno Okruzhiye." The latter office carries out all actual work in connection with mobilization.
11. A specially designated official compiles and keeps current the age group lists (Naborna Kniga), and these lists are forwarded to every municipality and local council not later than 31 March of each year. Persons in an age group to be called up are notified by mail and are allowed to appeal against their names being included, by mistake or for any other reason, up to 15 April of the same year. This notification is not a call-up. Posting of age group lists on public bulletin boards has been abandoned.
12. The "Voenno Byuro" prepares the call-up list from the corrected age group lists and includes details of the economic status of the draftees and their families. This is done to assist the authorities in determining the tax to be paid in cases of exemption from service. The draft list may include persons in another age group list whose call-up date had been previously deferred. The draft lists are then sent to the "Voenno Okruzhiye" for final checking, and the complete procedure must be completed by July of each year.
13. On the date designated by the Ministry of Defense as call-up day, the mayor of a town or the chairman of a local council has the persons on the list brought before the recruiting boards (Naborna Komisiya), which is composed of the military area commander, as president, and five members, as follows:
- a. An officer of the rank of captain;
 - b. A representative of the district administration;
 - c. A representative of the town or local council who is an active Party member;
 - d. A medical officer; and
 - e. A civilian physician.
14. Medical examination of those called up is the responsibility of the "Voenno Okruzhiye", and the medical members of the recruiting boards have a decisive vote in those cases where draftees ask for exemption from military service on grounds of health, as follows:
- a. Draftees with tuberculosis are not exempted, but are deferred for some years;
 - b. Draftees with heart ailments which are not severe are assigned to clerical work; and

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- c. Draftees who are feeble or who have certain bodily deficiencies are detailed to kitchen work or other general service jobs; their military booklets bear the notation "HCC" (Negoden Stroeve Sluzhba), qualifying them as unfit for general military service.
15. The recruiting board questions the draftees, consults the results of his medical examination, and decides whether he will serve in the Army, in the security forces, in the Trudovaks, or will be exempted from service. In general, the number of persons exempted from service does not exceed 3-4 percent of the total age group. In 1952, however, nine percent of the age group was exempted, and it is believed that the number of exemptions has risen as high as 12 percent.
16. A person can appeal the board's decision to the Mobilization Control Committee (Kontrolna Naborna Komisiya), which is composed of six voting members, as follows:
- The local divisional commander or his deputy, as president;
 - A brigade commander;
 - A representative of the okoliya administration;
 - The head of a town or local council;
 - A medical officer; and
 - A civilian physician.
- The area commander is a non-voting member of this board. The decisions of this committee are final.
17. Psychotechnical tests are restricted to Air Force candidates.
18. During October the "Voenno Okružhie" sends out call-up orders to recruits, notifying them of the date and place to report.

Mobilization Procedure in Wartime

19. The military offices attached to municipalities or to local councils are the first and lowest ranking organs to put the mobilization machinery into operation upon the announcement of a general mobilization. They must also cover the mobilization of livestock and materiel.
20. A person who has received his call-up orders must report immediately to the assembly point, where he receives his assignment and details about the way he must travel to reach his unit. The assembly point is used for soldiers of several units and can be regarded as a type of transit camp. During the first few days after his arrival at his respective unit, a soldier must have another medical examination. If his blood type is not in his booklet, the soldier must be given a blood test and his type entered in his booklet.
21. The "Voenno Okružhie" assigns soldiers to units even during peacetime, but the soldier is not notified; he knows only the type of duty to which he is assigned. Nor is he always returned to the same unit after his 60-day training period; in general, the authorities are careful not to assign many men from the same home town to the same unit.
22. A soldier's military specialization (VOS; Voenna Obuchenie Spetsializatsiya) is also entered in his military booklet during peacetime. It is believed that the number which follows VOS represents a certain assignment to a distinct unit, as follows:
- 1 - 100, for those assigned to fighting duties;
 - 101 - 160, for those assigned to administrative work in fighting units; and
 - 161 - up, for those assigned various work in rear echelons.

These numbers are often changed when reservists report to their units, but the change is always upward, never downward.

23. Highly skilled persons working at vital industrial plants are not called up, and an appropriate entry is made in their booklets.

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24. Plans call for the mobilization of the major part of the armed forces within a period of eight days, and the following mobilization time limits have been set for various arms and services:

- a. Infantry units, 4-6 days;
- b. Cavalry units, 3-5 days;
- c. Artillery units, 5-7 days; and
- d. General service units, 12 days (approximately).

Trial mobilizations have been carried out, but reservists are called to the assembly station only and then sent home again.

25. When a general mobilization is announced, the following councils will begin to function:

- a. "Vissh Suvet Na Otbrana" (VSNO; Supreme Council for the Defense of the People), chaired by the Prime Minister and represented by all ministries;
- b. "Suvet Za Mobilizatsiya Sredstva Za Svruzka" (Council for the Mobilization of Transport), which coordinates its plans with the military;
- c. "Suvet Za Mobilizatsiya Vutreshnata Otbrana" (Council for the Internal Security); and
- d. The Council for Economic Mobilization, which includes representatives of the agricultural, industrial and supply ministries.

These four councils and the military command constitute the supreme authorities during a state of general mobilization. A fifth body, "Izdruzhka Po Voenni Prichini" (IVP; Retention for Military Purposes), is responsible for payments connected with the mobilization of reserves, animals, and property.

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